

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3408

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LIMDIS

S/NM-VANCE; AID/SER/INC-WAMPLER; DEA/EOI-CUSACK

EO 11652;); TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: OPERATION TRIZO: WEEKLY REPORT (2-20/2-24 1976)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK WAS BY FAR MOST PRODUCTIVE DESTRUCTION WEEK OF CAMPAIGN. TOTAL OF 3,383 OPIUM FIELDS WERE DESTROYED IN ZONE 1, OF WHICH 3,161 WERE DESTROYED BY USE OF HERBICIDE. GOM ESTIMATES INTENSIFIED ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WILL END BY MID-MARCH. INTENSIFIED INTERDICTION PHASE HAS NOW BEGUN, CONCENTRATED IN OPIUM GROWING AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. ERADICATION:

(A) STATISTICAL SUMMARY

ZONE I - STATE OF SONORA, SINALOA, DURANGO AND CHIHUAHUA:

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES

FIELDS DESTROYED - 3,165

SQ METERS DESTROYED - 7,502,062

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PLANTS DESTROYED - 158,337,182

HECTARES - 750
OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY
FIELDS DESTROYED - 218
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 334,426
PLANTS DESTROYED - 7,551,300
HECTARES - 33.4

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES
FIELDS DESTROYED - 84
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 265,382
PLANTS DESTROYED - 8,124,500
HECTARES - 26.5

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY
FIELDS DESTROYED - 31
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 98,169
PLANTS DESTROYED - 2,462,161
HECTARES - 9.8

ZONE II - STATES OF JALISCO, NAYARIT, COLIMA, ZACATECAS
AND MICHOACAN

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYSD BY HERBICIDES
FIELDS DESTROYED - 2
(NO AREA OF QUANTITY GIVEN)

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY
NONE

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES
FIELDS DESTROYED - 30
SQ METERES DESTROYED - 11,300
PLANTS DESTROYED - 113,000
HECTARES - 1.13
(NO AREA OR QUANTITY GIVEN FOR 13 OF THESE
30 FIELDS)

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY
NONE

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ZONE III - STATES OF GUERRERO, MORELOS AND OAXACA

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES
NONE

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY
FIELDS DESTROYED - 2
(NO AREA OR QUANTITY GIVEN)

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES

FIELDS DESTROYED - 14
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 58,900
PANTS DESTROYED - 5,870,000
HECTARES - 5.9

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY

FIELDS DESTROYED - 23
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 14,025
PLANTS DESTROYED - 761,000
HECTARES - 1.4

TOTAL CUMULATIVE ERADICATION STATISTICS (ALL 3 ZONES)

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY

FIELDS DESTROYED - 2,829
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 9,892,860
PLANTS DESTROYED - 83,505,876
HECTARES - 989.3

OPIUM FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERBICIDES

FIELDS DESTROYED - 9,228
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 23,511,413
HECTARES - 2351.1

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED MANUALLY

FIELDS DESTROYED - 1,237
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 4,006,917
PLANTS DESTROYED - 94,798,487
HECTARES - 400.7

MARIHUANA FIELDS DESTROYED BY HERGICIDES

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FIELDS DESTROYED - 721
SQ METERS DESTROYED - 2,321,877
HECTARES - 232.2

(B)

REPORT 13 ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED CUMULATIVE
STATISTICS OF DESTRUCTION. THIS REPORT REFLECTS THE
CORRECT FIGURES OF DISTRUCTION AS OF THE CLOSING OF
THIS WEEKLY REPORT.

(C) PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT

NO CHANGE FROM LAST REPORT.

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E. AVIATION OPERATIONS

REPORTING PERIOD: FEB. 19-26, 1976

1. AG AIRCRAFT HOURS FLOWN AND AVAILABILITY, FEB. 19-26.

A. MODEL 212: 292:23 HRS/MIN FLOWN, AVAIL: 74.5 PERCENT

NOTE: MICRO FOIL UNITS: 109:06 HRS/MIN FLOWN. THE TOTAL TIME FLOWN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD DOUBLES THE PREVIOUS WEEK WHICH HAD BEEN AN ALL TIME HIGH.

B. MODEL 206-B: 122:30 HRS/MIN FLOWN, AVAIL: 61.2 PERCENT

NOTE: SIMPLEX II UNITS: 93:05 HRS/MIN FLOWN. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS FLOWN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD REPRESENTS A 66 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

C. CESSNA 185: 44:21 HRS/MIN FLOWN, AVAIL: 69 PERCENT

NOTE: A 34 PERCENT DECREASE UNDER PREVIOUS WEEK.

D. AERO COMMANDER: 37:25 HRS/MIN FLOWN, AVAIL: 60 PERCENT

NOTE: XC-GOZ (MOPSS) HAD ZERO TIME FOR PERIOD VOERED. XC-CON

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NOW FLYING FULL-TIME SHUTTLE ON REGULAR SCHEDULE TRANSPORTING MEN AND MATERIAL.

E. FAIRCHILD PORTER STOL: 10/25 HRS/MIN FLOWN

NOTE: XC-BIB CRASHED ON SECOND MORNING OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

F. TOTAL TIME FLOWN FOR ALL AIRCRAFT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD: 511:24HRS/MIN. THIS REPRESENTS A 32 PERCENT INCREASE AND ESTABLISHES A NEW LEVEL.

2. MAINTENANCE:

A. THE SIGNIFICANT UPWARD TREND IN AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY IN ORDER TO MEET THE HIGHTIME OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE NINE BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY (BHC) CONTRACT MECHANICS WORKING BOTH IN MEXICO CITY AND IN CULIACAN. THE ROTARY WING FLEET AVERAGED BETWEEN THREE TO FOUR HOURS OF FLYING TIME PER OPERATIONAL DAY.

B. PRESENTLY, THERE ARE FIVE ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE IN MEXICO CITY AG HANGAR CONSISTING OF THREE MODEL 212S AND TWO MODEL 206-BS. ONE EACH OF TWO TYPES OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE IN UP STATUS SHORTLY LEAVING TOTAL OF THREE AIRCRAFT DOWN, WHICH REPRESENTS LOWEST NUMBER IN PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

C. BOTH SOLIS AND PLATA EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF BHC TECHNICIAN GHITIS WHO IS FINISHING HIS 90-DAY TDY THIS MONTH. SOLIS STATES, AND PLATA CONCURS, THAT GHITIS REPRESENTS MOST POSITIVE ASSISTANCE ELEMENT IN BHC GROUP DUE TO HIS LANGUAGE ABILITY AND VAST TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE.

3. AVIATION

A. CRASH OF FAIRCHILD PORTER STOL (XC-BIB) IN TOPIA (SEE MEXICO 2605) HAS TEMPORARILY CANCELLED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AG PILOT TRAINEES. AVIATION ADVISOR FORD IS PRESENTLY EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ANOTHER INSTRUCTOR/PILOT TO RESUME TRAINING WITH REMAINING AIRCRAFT (XC-BIC).

B. ARRIVAL OF CESSNA CITIATION (XC-BEZ) IN MEXICO CITY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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20 FEB USHERED AG AERO SERVICES INTO JET AGE. DR. GERTZ PLANS TO USE CITATION TO FLY OVER WEEKEND TO ONE OF BASES.

F. MOPSS AND OTHER DETECTION SYSTEMS:

1. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

A. MISSION 64 WAS FLOWN 24 FEB OVER RIO HUAMAYA AREA EAST OF SAN MATEO RESERVOIR. SEVEN PHOTOGRAPHIC FLIGHT LINES WERE ACCOMPLISHED DURING ONE AND HALF HOURS THAT AIRCRAFT WAY OVER AREA. MISSION DATA HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY ANALYZED YET. PRELIMINARY RESULTS INDICATE DETECTION AND LOCATION OF AT LEAST 15 LIVE FIELDS AND ADDITIONAL 14 PROBABLE. (NOTE: MISSION 38 ON 5 JAN 1976 WAS THE FIRST MOPSS MISSION FLOWN THIS CALENDAR YEAR.)

B. THREE PLANNED MOPSS PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSIONS WERE PREEMPTED AT DIRECTION OF PROGRAM COORDINATOR DURAN WHO SCHEDULED AIRCRAFT (AERO COMMANDER XC-BEL) FOR VISUAL RECON ON 19, 20, AND 21 FEB. DURING WEEK ENDING 18 FEB, HE DIRECTED MOPSS AIRCRAFT TO FLY THREE VISUAL RECON MISSIONS. RATHER THAN PLANNED PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSIONS.

C. ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM MISSIONS 62 AND 63 FLOWN DURING LAST REPORTING PERIOD OVER TOAYANAN/MOBINORA AND CERRE DEL TRISTE/ MOHINORA AREA PROVIDED TOTAL OF 173 LIVE FIELDS AND ADDITIONAL 71 PROBABLES.

D. ONTRACT 2 NAVIGATION SYSTEM, TRAINING FOR PILOTS, IS AT STANDSTILL. ALL THREE UNTRAINED PILOTS ARE NOW ON LOCATION AND AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING FOR AT LEAST TEN MMORE DAYS. THE COMMUNICATION COMPONENTS CORPORATION WHICH PROVIDES ONTRACT 2 EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH AERO COMMANDERS, BUT HAS YET NOT FULFILLED ITS CONTRACT TO TRAIN PILOTS, HAS PERMITTED ITS FIELD REPRESENTATIVE (HENDERSON) TO LEAVE CULIACAN TO MEET OTHER COMMITMENTS. COORDINATION SHOULD BE INITIATED BY COMMUNICATION COMPONENTS CORPORATION TO GET TRAINER AND TRAINEES TOGETHER AND COMPLETE TRAINING WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

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2. MAINTENANCE

A. MOPS MISSIONS FOR 23 AND 25 FEB ON AERO COMMANDER XC-BEL WERE CANCELLED DUE TO MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. ON 23 FEB THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH CONTROL CABLE CHANGINGS AND NOSE WHEEL STEERING. ON THE 25, PROBLEMS WITH COMMUNICATION AND HYDRAULIC SYSTEM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT 100-HOUR INSPECTION WAS COMPLETED ON THIS AIRCRAFT 17 FEB.

B. ON 29 FEB, AERO COMMANDER XC-GOZ DEPARTED FOR MEXICO CITY TO HAVE 100-HOUR INSPECTION PERFORMED. IT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO CULIACAN ON OR ABOUT 27 FEB.

3. PLANS

A. PROGRAM COORDINATORS PLAN TO USE MOPS TO VERIFY ERADICATION STARTING NEXT WEEK. TO BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO HIS NEEDS, THE MOPS UNIT REQUIRES FEEDBACK FROM PROGRAM COORDINATOR SUCH AS SPECIFIC WELL-DEFINED AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN SPRAYED, DATES, HERBICIDE USED, ETC. PRIORITY LISTING OF WELL-DEFINED SPRAYED AREAS TO BE VERIFIED WOULD BE HELPFUL. MOPS PERSONNEL UNDERSTAND THAT PROGRAM COORDINATORS YTAFF WILL WORK WITH THEM

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TO DEVELOP THE VERIFICATION PLAN. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR INTERSTING AREAS ACCORDING TO FIELD DENSITY.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

1. INSTALLATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WERE ACCOMPLISHED IN ZONE I. CULIACAN - 150-WATT HF-SSB BASE STATION TRANSCEIVER, ANTENNA AND BATTERY CHARGES AT THE AG HEADQUARTERS AND A 20-WATT HF-SSB PORTABLE TRANSCEIVER (TEMPORARY) AT THE AIRPORT; TOPIA - ANTENNA WITH MASTS; SAN JOSE - ANTENNA WITH MASTS; CHOIX - ANTENNA WITH MASTS; LOS MOCHIS - ANTENNA WITH MASTS. DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS WERE ISSUED

CONCERNING THE 25 EACH 20-WATT HF-SSB PORTABLE TRANSCEIVERS AND INSTRUCTION PROVIDED ON THEIR OPERATION.

2. ONE MOBILE VAN UTILIZED FOR INTERDICTION (ROADBLOCK) PURPOSES WAS EQUIPPED WITH A 20-WATT HF-SSB PORTABLE UNIT AS A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT UNTIL 150-WATT HF-SSB TRANSCEIVER INCLUDING WHIP ANTENNA COULD BE INSTALLED.

3. INSTALLATION OF 150-WATT HF-SSB TRANSCEIVERS, WITH CABLING, WAS COMPLETED ON TWO CESSNA AIRCRAFT. THE FAIRCHILD PORTER STOL AIRCRAFT IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE THE SAME TYPE OF EQUIPMENT.

H. HERBICIDES

1. DURING THE RECENT TDY TO CULIACAN, NAU PROGRAM OFFICER AND AVIATION ADVISOR OBSERVED THE DAILY FLIGHT PREPARATIONS DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS PRIOR TO LIFTING OFF FOR THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS.

2. GUIMYNPU#GROUND INSPECTIONS OF SPRAYED FIELDS CONDUCTED BY AVIATION ADVISOR FORD CONFIRMED EARLIER SUSPICIONS WHICH TENDED TO CAST DOUBT ON THE 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS. FIRST INDICATIONS OF HERBICIDE PROBLEM RESULTED IN PRESENT POLICY (INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE) OF TERMINATING USE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HGD-520 (GRAMOXONE) AND RELYING TOTALLY ON DOW AMINS (2-4-D). THE IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE 2-4-D WAS TO RECOMMEND A HIGHER STRENGTH IN THE CHEMICAL MIXTURE AS THE PREVIOUS STRENGTH WAS BASED ON 12 AND 1/2 GALLONS OF HERBICIDE TO EACH 300 GALLONS OF WATER. PRESENTLY, 15 GALLONS ARE BEING USED; HOWEVER, A MORE EFFICIENT KILL COULD BE OBTAINED IF GALLONAGE WERE IN THE HIGH TEENS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.

3. THE FIVE FUEL BLADDERS WITH 500-GALLON CAPACITY EACH ARRIVED AS SCHEDULED VIA EVERGREEN AIRCRAFT ON 22 FEBRUARY. THEY WERE PRESSED INTO SERVICE ON 24 FEBRUARY AND IMMEDIATELY PROVED THEIR WORTH AFTER TWO FULL BLADDERS WERE SLING-LOADED BY MODEL 212S OVER THE MOUNTAINS TO THE BASE AT SAN JOSE DEL LLANO. SHORTLY, AFTER THE PUMP, FILTER, HOSES, AND NOZZLE WERE SET UP, REFUELING OPERATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS FOR OTHER ROTARY WITNG AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED IN THE AREA. EACH FUEL CELL WILL ENABLE A TEAM OF TWO MODEL 212S TO PUT OUT FOUR LOADS OF CHEMICAL PER DAY.

4. DR. GERTZ TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED HIS DEPUTY, LIC. ALEJANDRO HENESTROSA, TO THE ZONE I AREA TO INCREASE THE MOMENTUM OF THE SPRAYING OPERATIONS WHICH HAD SUBSIDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SOLIS/RANERO FIASCO IN CULIACAN. ERADICATION STATISTICS AND TOTAL HOURS FLOWN SINCE HENESTROSA'S ARRIVAL TOOK A SIGNIFICANT UPWARD SURGE. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, HENESTROSA EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE TACT IN DEALING WITH THE SAME PRINCIPALS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ASSERTED (AND PROVEN) THEIR POSITIONS AGAINST SOLIS.

3. INTERDICTION

ZONE I - STATES OF SONORA, SINALOA, DURANGO AND CHIHUAHUA

4 KILOGRAMS 554 GRAMS HSROIN
536 GRAMS COCAINE
10 TONS 010 KILOGRAMS 657 GRAMS MARIHUANA
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6 KILOGRAMS 600 GRAMS MARIHUANA SEED
850 GRAMS OPIUM
8 KILOGRAMS OPIUM POPPY SEEDS
9 AUTOMOBILES
3 PICKUP TRUCKS
49 DEFENDANTS (3 AMERICANS)
34 WEAPONS
147 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION
2 LABORATORIES
7 HYDRAULIC JACKS
1 OPIUM PRESS
1 PRESS
1 CARTON PLASTIC BAGS
1 ROLL PLASTIC BAGS
3.5 LITERS ACETONE.

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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ZONE II - STATES OF JALISCO, NAYARIT, COLIMA,
ZACATECAS AND MICHOACAN

500 GRAMS HEROIN

1 KILOGRAM 725 GRAMS COCAINE

30 DOSAGE UNITS (D.U.) DEXEDRINE

7 TONS 600 KILOGRAMS 30 GRAMS MARIHUANA

250 GRAMS MARIHUANA SEEDS

1 TRAILER

1 AUTOMOBILE

1 PANEL TRUCK

14 DEFENDANTS (2 AMERICANS)

ZONE III - STATES OF GUERRERO, MORELOS & OAXACA

13 KILOGRAMS OPIUM

20 GRAMS HASHISH

575 GRAMS MARIHUANA

2 KILOGRAMS 780 GRAMS MARIHUANA SEEDS

15 D.U. VALIUM

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10 WEAPONS

19 DEFENDANTS (4 AMERICANS)

20 ROUNDS AMMUNITION

TOTAL CUMULATIVE INTERDICTION FIGURES (ALL 3 ZONES)

69 KILOGRAMS 634 GRAMS HEROIN
162 KILOGRAMS 990 GRAMS OPIUM GUM
8 KILOGRAMS OPIUM POPPY SEEDS
2 OPIUM PRESSES
220 GRAMS MORPHINE BASE
11 HEROIN CONVERSION LABORATORIES
13 KILOGRAMS 249 GRAMS COCAINE
4,090,000 D.U. MINI-BENNIES
30 D.U. DEXEDRINE
23 GRAMS BENZEDRINE
122,500 D. U. BENZEDRINE TABLETS
15 D.U. VALIUM
5 D.U. LSD
6 PILL PRESSES
185 D.U. AMPHETAMINES
550 D.U. MANDRAX PILLS
600 KILOGRAMS SECEBARBITAL
15,500,000 D.U. SECOBARBITAL
15,000,000 EMPTY CAPSULES
1 KILOGRAM 360 GRAMS PEYOTE
11 KILOGRAMS ADDITIVES FOR PILLS
1 SECOBARBITAL LABORATORY
6 KILOGRAMS 31 GRAMS HASHISH
138 TONS 519 KILOGRAMS 412 GRAMS MARIHUANA
265 KILOGRAMS 480 GRAMS MARIHUANA SEED
8 MARIHUANA PRESSES
30 GRAMS HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOMS
1 SHRIMP BOAT
178 AUTOMOBILES
4 STATION WAGONS
3 PICK-UP TRUCKS
30 TRUCKS
1 PANEL TRUCK
3 TRAILER TRUCKS
17 AIRCRAFT
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885 DEFENDANTS
419 WEAPONS
193,486 ROUNDS OF AMMO
278 STICKS OF DYNAMITE
5-200 LITER DRUMS OF AVIATION FUEL
1,000 METERS OF IRRIGATION HOSE
3 PUMPS
3.5 LITERS OF ACETONE
1 CARTON PLASTIC BAGS
1 ROLL PLASTIC BAGS
7 MJDRAULIC JACKS

B. USE OF INTERDICTION VEHICLES

ONE OF THE SPECIAL INTERDICTION VEHICLES WAS ASSIGNED TO THE MONTERREY AREA. ANOTHER IS OPERATING OUT OF CULIACAN, ANOTHER OUT OF URUAPAN, ANOTHER IS OPERATING OUT OF GUADALAJARA AND A FIFTH IS NOW ASSIGNED TO OAXACA. THESE VEHICLES ARE NOW OPERATING ON MAIN HIGHWAYS AND WILL NOT BE UTILIZED ON DIRT ROADS OR UNIMPROVED ROADS. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY SEIZURES AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THESE MOBILE ROADBLOCK UNITS.

G. MISSION ANALYSIS OF TRENDS

DEA SOURCES CONTINUE TO REPORT A DEFINITE SHORTAGE OF OPIUM IN THE STATE OF GUERRERO. IN MICHOACAN DEA SOURCES REPORT THAT THE RELATIVELY SEE MOVEMENT OF OPIUM HAS BEEN CURTAILED DRASTICALLY. IN SINALOA, CHIHUAHUA, AND DURANGO, DEA SOURCES REPORT THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF OPIUM FIELDS BY THE USE OF HERBICIDES HAS CAUSED SERIOUS CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE OPIUM GROWING FARMERS. HOWEVER, REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT OPIUM FARMERS ARE WAITING FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE SOLDIERS AND MFJP HELICOPTERS AND PERSONNEL TO BEGIN GROWING OPIUM POPPIES IN GREAT QUANTITIES TO REPLENISH THEIR LOSSES. REPORTS INDICATE THAT OPIUM FARMERS WILL BEGIN PLANTING AROUND EASTER WHEN THEY ANTICIPATE THAT THE AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE DISCONTINUED THEIR INTENSIFIED ERADICATION EFFORTS. IF THIS INFO-
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MATION IS CORRECT, WE COULD EXPECT ANOTHER CRITICAL SITUATION TO DEVELOP AROUND LATE JULY OR THE EARLY PART OF AUGUST, WHICH WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO DR. GERTZ IN PREPARATION FOR INTENSIFIED LOCATION

AND VERIFICATION PROGRAM THAT WE HOPE WILL COMMENCE BY THE END OF MAY.

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4. COMMENTS:

ALL STATISTICS REGARDING INTERDICTION AND
EDCGZWWM (#)

1-0,DXOVLEG

HAVE SURPASSED TOTAL OF LAST YEAR'S CAMPAIGN. WE ARE ESPECIALLY
ENCOURAGED WITH THIS WEEK'S OPIUM POPPY DESTRUCTION. IN PAST
THREE WEEKS, ALMOST 7,700 OPIUM FIELDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
ON FEB 24 DR. HEATH MET WITH DR. GERTZ AT CULIACAN COMMAND
CENTER FOR PURPOSE OF EVALUATING SITUATION IN ZONE I. AC-
COMPANYING DRD HEATH WERE ZONE I FIELD SUPERVISOR JACK SHORT
AND DEA CULIACAN SENIOR REP ROBERT ESPINOSA. DR. GERTZ'S
ADVISORS WERE LIC HENESTROSA, WHO HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN
CHARGE OF OPERATIONS IN ZONE
I AREA COORDINATOR LIC. DURAN
AND HIS COMMANDANTE ABISAID, AND COMMANDANTE DIAZ-LAREDO.
DR. GERTZ REEMPHASIZED NEED FOR DEA PRESENCE DURING LOCATION AND
VERIFICATION OF OPIUM FIELDS SO THAT THERE WOULDNOT BE DUAL
REPORTING SYSTEM SUBJECT TO CRITICISM BY ONE OF OTHER IF
STATISTICS VARIED. ALL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FOR LOCATION OR
VERIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION ARE NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH
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DEA AGENT AND MEXICAN SPOTTER IN DEA AIRCRAFT. FROM ALL
AVAILABLE INFO, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE APPROX 2,000
FIELDS LEFT IN ZONE I.

DR. GERTZ HAS NOW INITIATED SECOND PHASE OF THIS CAMPAIGN

WHICH INVOLVES INTENSIFIED INTERDICTION PROGRAM. FARMING COMMUNITIES ADJACENT TO OPIUM FIELDS ARE NOW BEING SEARCHED FOR OPIUM OR MARIHUANA CACHES. THESE FARM HOUSES THAT ARE OBVIOUSLY CONNECTED TO OPIUM FIELDS WILL BE SEVERELY SCRUTINIZED AND ADULT MEN DETAINED AND PROCESSED FOR GROWING OPIUM. DWELLINGS THAT ARE USED FOR STORAGE OR FACILITATING GROWING OF OPIUM OR MARIHUANA WILL BE BURNED. DR. GERTZ IS CONVINCED THAT IF OPIUM FORMERS ARE LEFT ALONE, THEY WILL SIMPLY RESORT TO GROWING MORE OPIUM POPPY FIELDS; HOWEVER, SEVERE HARASSMENT, AND OR ARRESTS OF SEVERAL OPIUM POPPY FIELD FARMERS WILL CAUSE IMPACT AND DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM PLANTING OPIUM POPPY FIELDS IN FUTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING CAMPAIGN OF 1975, THIS TYPE OF HARASSMENT AND DETENTION TOOK PLACE IN OPIUM GROWING AREAS IN SOUTHERN PART OF STATE OF CHIHUAHUA. THIS AREA WAS TRADITIONALLY OPIUM POPPY AREA CAPABLE OF PRODUCING APPROX 5,000 OPIUM POPPY FIELDS. HOWEVER, DUE TO LAST YEAR'S ACTIONS BY MFJP IN THIS AREA, LESS THAN 350 FIELDS WERE LOCATED THIS YEAR IN SAME AREA. INTENTION OF DR. GERTZ IS TO CREATE SIMILAR DETERRANCE IN REST OF AREAS WHICH ARE KNOWN TO TRADITIONALLY CULTIVATE OPIUM POPPY FIELDS. SAME OPERATION PLAN APPLIES TO OTHER TWO ZONES, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY STATES OF MICHOACANA AND GUERRERO. THIS TYPE OF OPERATION FOR GOM SERVES TWO PURPOSES (1) TO HARASS, DETAIN OF SEIZE DRUGS, AND (2) TO SEIZE WEAPONS AND MAINTAIN STRONG PRESENCE OF SOLDIERS IN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE ANY INCIDENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT MOVEMENTS.

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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